

*Supply—Agriculture*

Incidentally, Mr. Chairman, the government recommends that our farmers be more businesslike. The stabilization board and the dairy commission did not set a very good example during the past dairy year to the farmers who were supposed to be businesslike. I should like to quote from page 2 of the Canadian Dairy Commission statement of January 15, 1968:

—the commission gives notice that this is the last year newcomers may receive subsidy quotas except by reallocation.

Is this common business practice or is it the action of a dictatorship? In a democratic country such as Canada it certainly amounts to arrogance. Has any man who purchases a herd of milk cows and is given a quota any guarantee that the quota will be honoured? This is a question that the Minister of Agriculture should answer. We are waiting for the answer and I hope we will have it today. I think the whole quota system requires very close scrutiny. May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Chairman?

**The Chairman:** Order. It is my duty, pursuant to provisional standing order 39A, to inform the house that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment tonight are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, pensions of retired civil servants; the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean, C.B.C. Radio—re broadcasts over CKRS-TV; the hon. member for Kootenay West, Finance—request for statement on economic and financial policy. It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

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**AFTER RECESS**

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

**The Chairman:** When the committee rose at six o'clock it had been considering vote 5c of the supplementary estimates of the Department of Agriculture.

**Mr. Moore:** Before we rose I was making reference to some of the dictatorial statements given out on January 15, 1968, by the Canadian Dairy Commission. No wonder farmers have been forced out of business by the hundreds; no wonder young men cannot be found to replace them, even if they could afford to do so—which they could not, anyway, in these times.

The minister has told us on many occasions that prices are higher than ever before. He

compares them with prices under the former government. What a misleading comparison. Net returns are dependent on production costs, and this is all I need to say.

**An hon. Member:** He doesn't know any better.

**Mr. Moore:** Thank you.

This attitude on the part of the minister is not good enough. Under a Liberal government I sold milk for 48 cents a hundredweight. But that will not help the farmers of today. It is history. They are not interested in it.

It is noteworthy that a government supporter in the other place has introduced a bill to amend the Canadian Dairy Commission Act. I have read it and I have a copy here. I wonder why he is doing this. Surely it could not be for the sake of justifying an institution which once he wanted to abolish. He was at one time a member of this house and the chief agricultural critic for his party, or parties. He knows that the present act is not fair. My only criticism of his bill is that it does not go far enough; it only refers to discrimination against the small milk shippers or cream shippers. Nevertheless he deserves to be commended and his point is well taken.

Here is an industry which is already declining rapidly. Yet, through its policy the government is attempting to increase the rate at which dairymen all over Canada are going out of business. And it is succeeding. I would call your attention to this, Mr. Chairman: I have not asked the government to expend any more money. I have condemned it for failing to allocate the available funds more fairly. The minister should I suggest rectify this state of affairs when next he announces dairy policy. There is a limit to the amount which the government can pay in subsidies; we are all aware of that. But there is another aspect of this question. How much has the government spent on research to find new methods of processing and packaging so as to obtain new markets? Does the government intend to let other countries which have made great strides in this field get ahead of us, as usual? We have to remember that new markets will likely be found in countries where refrigeration is scarce or non-existent. Let us have a dairy policy next year designed to give all producers a bit of encouragement and a fair return for their labour in one of the hardest and most demanding professions in existence today.